



Meeting Summary

NAS JRB Fort Worth Regional Coordination Committee

April 17, 2023

1:30 p.m.

**Russell Hall
5708 Jacksboro Highway
Fort Worth, TX 76114**

The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (NAS JRB Fort Worth) Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) convened at 1:30 p.m. on April 17, 2023. The meeting was hosted by the City of Sansom Park.

Voting Members in Attendance

Mike Coleman, Chair, City of Westworth Village
Councilmember Dr. Larry Marshall, Vice Chair,
City of Benbrook
Jeff James, Treasurer, City of White Settlement
Councilmember Dan Chisholm, Secretary,
City of River Oaks
Jack Adkison, City of River Oaks
Stacey Almond, City of Lake Worth
Councilmember Michael D. Crain, City of Fort
Worth
Councilmember Brian Libbey, City of Westworth
Village
Councilmember Laura Mackey, City of
Benbrook
Dillon Maroney, Tarrant County
Councilmember Paul Moore, City of White
Settlement
Councilmember Gary Stuard, City of Lake
Worth
Angie Winkle, City of Sansom Park

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Charlie Cripliver, The Office of Representative
Kay Granger
Ann Elias, White Settlement Chamber of
Commerce
Ricardo Gonzalez, Texas Department of
Transportation (TxDOT)
Dan Kessler, NCTCOG
Ricky Langton, Camp Carter YMCA
Lenny Lasher, Castleberry ISD
Audra Mead, White Settlement Area
Chamber of Commerce
Tina Nikolic, Tarrant Regional Water District
JoAnna Parker, White Settlement Area
Chamber of Commerce

Maj. Gen. Kevin Pottinger, Texas Military
Preparedness Commission
Brinda Rhodes, White Settlement Area
Chamber of Commerce
Maritta Sumner, Governor’s Committee to
Support the Military
Don Weatherby, Fort Worth Air Power Council

Others Present

Chad Allen, City of Fort Worth
Mayor Jim Barnett, City of Sansom Park
Lt. Will Burke, NAS JRB Fort Worth
Wade G. Chappell, BC Collaborations
Phil Dupler, Trinity Metro
Herman Earwood, City of River Oaks
Marvin Gregory, City of River Oaks
SSgt., Njie Hightower, 301st Fighter Wing
Jill Van Hoewyk, Lamb-Star Engineering
Tucker Maberry, Pavlik and Associates
Michael McDonald, Lamb-Star Engineering
Jocelyn Murphy, City of Irving
James Myrick, City of River Oaks
Robert Nunley, City of White Settlement
Amelia Owre, NAS JRB Fort Worth
Roger Peimann, Fort Worth Air Power Council
Thelma Smith
Nicholas Spencer, TxDOT Fort Worth
Ron Wooten, East Lake Worth Neighborhood
Association

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Jackie Castillo
Paul Paine
Kyle Roy
Kimberly Wilder
Amanda Wilson

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Approval of January 23, 2023 Meeting Summary (Action)
4. Challenge Coin Presentation
5. Tenant Command Presentation: US Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps
6. Meandering Road Update
7. Base Security Initiative
8. 2023 DCIP Application
9. NAS JRB Fort Worth Update
10. JLUS Update
11. Staff Reports, Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG
 - REPI Program
 - Scheduling Update
 - Transportation Project Implementation Update
 - Media Alerts
 - Correspondence
 - Attendance Report
12. Public Comments

Item 1. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge

Chair Mike Coleman called the Committee to order at 1:30 p.m.

Item 2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting with committee and audience member introductions. Sansom Park Mayor Jim Barnett welcomed everyone in attendance.

Item 3. Approval of January 23, 2023 Meeting Summary (Action)

The motion to approve the meeting summary was made by Councilmember Michael Crain. Councilmember Dan Chisholm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4. Challenge Coin Presentation

The Chair provided background on the creation and purpose of the RCC challenge coins. The committee created NAS JRB Fort Worth RCC challenge coins to provide a token of gratitude to individuals who have made a meaningful contribution to the RCC.

The Chair presented two challenge coins. Jocelyn Murphy worked for the City of Fort Worth in the Planning and Development Department from 2008 to 2019 and served as the primary representative and liaison responsible for implementation of the city's action items from the 2008 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). Mayor Herman Earwood of River Oaks served on the 2005 NAS JRB Fort Worth Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Policy Board that implemented the steps for creating and establishing the nation's first Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) in 2008. Both recipients were given awards and a standing round of applause in honor of their efforts.

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Item 5. Tenant Command Presentation: U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps

The Chair introduced Lt. Will Burke, who is the Judge Advocate General (JAG) for NAS JRB Fort Worth, so he could give an overview of the base's Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps. Lt. Burke said an important aspect of his job is to accompany the base's commanding officer (CO) to meetings with legal implications. He also assists with grant application submittals, ensuring those are properly reviewed by the Navy's southeast region headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida, and then forwarded to Washington, DC for final review and possible award. In his role, Lt. Burke also provides ethics advice to the CO to ensure compliance with joint ethics regulations for federal employees. For example, he provides guidance on whether the CO is able to accept certain gifts or honorariums for presentations or speaking opportunities.

Lt. Burke's most important function as JAG is discipline. The Navy has its own uniform code of military justice. As JAG, he reviews accusations of misconduct, initiates investigations, and facilitates procedures to hold people accountable, including, in extreme cases, going through the court martial process, which is held in Pensacola, Florida. He clarified the installation no longer has a courthouse. Finally, Lt. Burke explained how to become a Judge Advocate General: One can either enter the JAG Corps directly after law school or enlist, go to law school, and then transfer into the Corps. In his case, the Navy paid for his law school first on condition he would enter the JAG Corps upon graduation.

Dan Kessler then asked if there were special issues for JAGs serving at a reservist base. Lt. Burke explained reserve bases often have complicated security permissions due to the different levels of access. In addition, some offenses requiring investigation cannot be investigated until a reservist returns to active duty. The Chair shared that the actor John Jackson, who starred on the TV show "JAG," is a graduate of Arlington Heights High School.

Item 6. Meandering Road Update

Dan Kessler and Ms. Jill Van Hoewyk with Lamb-Star Engineering provided an update on the Meandering Road project in River Oaks. Dan provided background on the roadway corridor, which serves as the east entrance to the base. It was built by the Marines in 1948 and is currently in dire need of repair. He said this project is particularly unique due to it being funded by the federal government through NCTCOG. The funds, however, are handled by TxDOT, so they are the actual owner of the project. The project is then administered by the City of Fort Worth, even though it is mostly in the City of River Oaks. He commended the Fort Worth and Lamb-Star staff working on the project.

Ms. Van Hoewyk said work on the project design began in 2017. The purpose of the project is to construct an arterial roadway that provides a safe, efficient, and cost-effective transportation facility designed to meet projected travel demand. The project is needed to address deteriorating conditions of the existing roadway and operational/safety deficiencies at intersections; accommodate bicycles and pedestrians where no facilities currently exist; and better size the facility to meet the needs of the surrounding area. The project will reconstruct Meandering Road from four lanes to three lanes, realign the intersection at Roberts Cut Off, construct intersection improvements at Yale Street and LTjg Barnett Road, and add sidewalks and sidepaths within the project limits. Ms. Van Hoewyk public feedback necessitated some changes to the design, but the final environmental document was completed in November 2022. An update to the traffic report was then submitted to the city in February, and all documentation is complete with the design plans at the 90% stage. The next anticipated milestone is environmental clearance, which will

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complete the environmental process. Then, a 90% PS&E review by TxDOT and a 100% PS&E submittal to the city and TxDOT will occur; project letting is expected by March 2024. Both Dan Kessler and the Chair expressed optimism about the project timeline. The Chair asked if there were plans to extend the bike path in this project to the fish hatcheries east of the base. Ms. Van Hoewyk said yes and explained the path would make the commercial connection between the base and the commercial area in River Oaks and also connect the base to the regional bicycle-pedestrian system.

Item 7. Base Security Initiative

Dan Kessler and Paul Paine gave an overview of a proposed Base Security Initiative to the committee. Dan said the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) identified substantial safety and security issues around the perimeter of NAS JRB. On behalf of the RCC, Paul, Dan, and Capt. McLean are working directly with White Settlement Police Chief Chris Cook to form a committee to improve communications between law enforcement, security, emergency preparedness and emergency response professionals working at the base and in the surrounding communities. A working group has been established, and the committee will be modeled after and operate in parallel to the RCC. Target directives of this committee are to reestablish and maintain key lines of communication, review and update mutual aid, response and service agreements, identify joint training opportunities, plan and conduct emergency response training exercises, perform and maintain threat assessments, assess and address perimeter security needs, and identify and secure funding opportunities. Dan said the committee will help address communication and continuity issues caused by the regular turnover in base leadership. Therefore, the main focus of this initiative is base safety and security. An introductory meeting was held in Fort Worth in early April.

NCTCOG is also working closely with the cities of Fort Worth, Arlington, and Dallas on the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). This is a federal grant program by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Currently, \$16 million a year in funding from FEMA is distributed to the region. With Fort Worth as a key partner in this initiative, this is an opportunity to secure a portion of that funding to help address safety and security needs at the base. UASI program funding is utilized to assist high-threat, high-density urban areas in efforts to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. Any threat to NAS JRB is also a threat to the surrounding communities, so funding is needed for the defense of both. This will also provide financial assistance to address all potential threats to the Lockheed Martin facility adjacent to the base. A May kickoff meeting with all involved entities is being planned, with regular quarterly meetings to follow.

Item 8. 2023 DCIP Application

Amanda Wilson provided an overview of the 2023 Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP). A DCIP application was successfully submitted last year by the City of White Settlement, and the 2023 funding opportunity is now accepting applications. She explained the program is operated out of the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), the same Department of Defense (DOD) office that administers the JLUS program. Applications are evaluated according to their ability to address military value, installation resilience, and military family quality of life. This year, a fourth criteria has been added, which is college ROTC programs located within a certain distance from a military installation. Grants awards are between \$250,000 and \$20 million. A minimum 30%, non-federal funding match is required, and proposals must be construction-ready within the first 12 months after the grant award. Eligible activities include only

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hard construction and renovation costs outside of local installation property, which is defined as property not owned by the local installation or any component of the DOD. According to the funding opportunity notice, more points are awarded to projects that are construction-ready than based on project need. This year, the RCC is working with the City of Lake Worth on an application to relocate their fire station and essential emergency response services from the Accident Potential Zone II to a location outside a safety zone. The estimated total project cost is \$13.5 million or up to 70% of that cost. Lake Worth will provide the 30% local match. The current site will be left vacant until a compatible use is identified for the parcel. Amanda also encouraged other cities to apply in 2023 or in subsequent years. Proposals are due June 23. Successful proposals will be invited to submit a formal application, and awards will be announced this fall. COG staff are able to assist any city interested in submitting a proposal.

Dan Kessler noted that DCIP awards have been made for fire stations before, so he felt confident about the Lake Worth proposal. Councilmember Gary Stuard said Lake Worth staff had received encouragement about their proposal from one of the grant administrators. The Chair asked how many fire stations Lake Worth had, and Lake Worth City Manager Stacey Almond said only one. Gen. Kevin Pottinger asked how the proposal addressed military value in the scoring criteria, and Ms. Almond explained the Lake Worth Fire Department responds to incidents on base. Councilmember Stuard clarified the station's location in an Accident Potential Zone means it could be affected by a flight incident, leaving the city unable to respond to a call in the city or on the base.

Item 9. NAS JRB Fort Worth Update

Ms. Amelia Owre, Community Planning Liaison Officer for NAS JRB Fort Worth, provided updates on base activities in the absence of Capt. Mark McLean. She said Roll Call will be hosting a meal on the base on April 28 at 11 a.m. in the BR59 hangar. Community members are invited to attend. Planning is underway for the air show that will take place April 13-14, 2024. Up to 150,000 people are expected. Ms. Owre thanked the neighboring cities already helping coordinate assistance with the show's law enforcement and transportation needs. She said increased traffic will be a pressing issue, but the base is working with NCTCOG on event logistics. Finally, Ms. Owre said Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) continue to affect the base, and drone traffic is interfering with base operations. The base is averaging 200 unauthorized flights per month in the base's Zero Blocks, which is excessive. She is creating a flyer to explain rules and regulations for responsibly operating UAS near the base. The base will present on this problem in greater detail at a future RCC meeting. Dan Kessler added that Amanda Wilson drafted a bill introduced by Sen. Kelly Hancock, who is chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, and Rep. Charlie Geren. In March, Amanda and Paul Paine testified before the Veteran Affairs Committee, and the bill was placed on the House and Senate calendars. However, NCTCOG staff are now working with industry representatives on an amended version of the bill to address their concerns about overregulation. The amended bill would need to be heard again in committee, but Dan was optimistic about the bill's prospects. Dan emphasized the bill would empower local law enforcement to approach and educate violators.

Item 10. JLUS Update

Amanda Wilson announced that the JLUS Implementation Grant funding amendment had just been approved by OLDCC, extending funding through the end of the year. She then provided an overview of the new Community Noise Mitigation Program, to which Congress has allocated \$75 million for voluntary noise mitigation in communities surrounding military installations. Funding is

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unlikely to become available before fall 2023. Amanda explained the program is likely to closely resemble a similar program administered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), so she provided an overview of this program: A 10% local match is required, and priority is given to eligible properties such as hospitals, daycare facilities, schools, facilities serving senior citizens and private residences located within one mile of a base or in a 65+ dB DNL noise contour. Amanda then presented a map of a Noise Mitigation Qualifying Parcel Assessment showing the location of parcels that would be eligible according to these criteria. The Chair said he had recently read an article about government funding to insulate homes, and Amanda said this was likely in regard to the FAA program. Dr. Larry Marshall asked who would provide the 10% local match for the program. Amanda said this was a policy question for the RCC to decide, and the Chair said the article had indicated demonstrated decibel noise reductions would be required. Dan Kessler encouraged committee members to provide staff with feedback at RCC meetings or privately and emphasized that NAS JRB is a good candidate for this funding.

Also, Amanda gave an update on the status of the welcome packet that staff have been working on with the RCC Technical Subcommittee. The purpose of the welcome packet is to introduce the base to community members, outline expectations for neighbors, and provide resources for learning more about the base and raising concerns. She said a hard copy of the draft packet was included with the meeting agenda for review. The final product will be a folder imprinted with the RCC logo containing a welcome letter, packet, brochures, fact sheet, and an official public comment form. There will also be a digital version with translations in Spanish and Vietnamese. Staff are seeking feedback on the draft packet presented today as well as the overall concept. Comments are requested by April 30. The Chair asked about a distribution plan. Amanda said cities would be the primary distributors, online and possibly through a water bill insert, but a postcard with QR code is also planned.

Item 11. Staff Reports, Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

- **REPI Program:** Dan Kessler presented the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program, which is a DOD tool for combating encroachment by helping remove or avoid land-use conflicts near installations and addressing regulatory restrictions that inhibit military activities. Dan said under the program landowners maintain their property rights but sell their development rights, which are then held in a public trust. The City of Fort Worth already has \$15 million set aside for funding. Ms. Amelia Owre said the base would like to pursue REPI funding but needs to work out agreements and identify parcels and partners.
- **Scheduling Update:** The next RCC meeting will take place Monday, July 17, 2023, in White Settlement.
- **Transportation Project Implementation Update:** Dan Kessler provided updates on several projects.
 - Las Vegas Trail: Dan said this project now has a possible letting date of early 2025.
 - Meandering Road: Design is about 90% complete with a March 2024 letting date.
 - State Highway 199 and Interstate Highway 820 Interchange: Mr. Ricardo Gonzales and staff at TxDOT have formed a working group on project design, right of way needs, and stormwater issues. Targeted letting date of 2026. The Chair asked if the project began at the roundabout located near downtown Fort Worth. Dan said yes and emphasized there would need to be outreach about right of way needs to landowners and businesses.

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- Councilmember Dr. Larry Marshall asked Mr. Gonzales for an update on the sound walls along IH 20 to Benbrook. Mr. Gonzalez stated that although TxDOT is having some challenges with contractors, the project is moving along, and he estimated a project completion date of fall 2023.
- **Media Alerts:** Included in the packets.
- **Correspondence:** Included in the packets.
- **Attendance Reports:** Included in the packets.

Item 12. Public Comments:

Ms. Maritta Sumner spoke on House Bill 1613, which relates to the provision of state aid to certain local governments to offset the cost of the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of a disabled veteran. According to Ms. Sumner, the bill would amend the criteria required for communities seeking reimbursement for property tax revenue lost due to this exemption and change the way the revenues used for the reimbursement are distributed. She encouraged attendees to contact their State legislators and said she would forward information on this to Kyle Roy for further distribution. Dan Kessler announced that Tarrant County Commissioner Manny Ramirez has agreed to serve on the RCC. Mr. Don Weatherby invited attendees to a Fort Worth Air Power Council fundraising event for veterans at Joe T. Garcia's on June 15. Mr. Weatherby asked for those who are interested in attending to contact him directly. Sponsorships are available.